The AERB has been established under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and has the necessary functional autonomy to discharge the duties and responsibilities entrusted to it, including those in the area of radiological safety.

Supply of Desulphurised Petrol

*643. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to ensure supply of unadulterated petrol and diesel at retail outlets;

(b) whether Government plan to supply ultra low sulphur diesel with sulphur content of 0.05% (maximum) all over the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The oil marketing companies supply petrol and diesel as per specifications laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) all over the country. In order to ensure that the quality of petrol and diesel is maintained as per BIS specifications, oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices.

Further to check adulteration Government have decided to promulgate Solvent, Slop, Raffinate (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, and Naphtha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order.

(b) and (c) Oil marketing companies have already introduced ultra low sulphur petrol for all categories of vehicles in the National Capital Region since 1.4.2000.

Oil Industry has also introduced ultra low sulpur diesel with 0.05% maximum sulphur content for new non-commercial vehicles through select outlets in the National Capital Region since 1.4.2000.

In order to supply 0.05% maximum sulphur content diesel all over the country, modifications in the existing refineries need to be carried out. An

estimated expenditure of Rs. 20,000-25,000 crores will have to be made to effect these modifications. The plans for supply of ultra low sulphur petrol and diesel in the entire country have not been finalised yet.

Projects behind Schedule

*644. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 430 projects are behind schedule and this has adversely affected the approved cost of these projects and consequently there has been substantial increase in the costs;

(b) what measures are being adopted to contain time and cost overrun; and

(c) whether there is any system of annual or mid-term appraisal of such projects and whether the machinery to conduct this appraisal is adequate or alert?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Out of 452 projects presently on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, 204 projects are having cost overrun and 205 projects are having time overrun. With respect to the original approved cost, cost overrun of all the 452 projects is 36%.

(b) The measures taken to reduce time and cost overruns of these projects include the following:—

(i) Review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government. This enables the Government to identify the constraints and help them to remove these constraints and to resolve the problems affecting the implementation of the projects;

(ii) Indepth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and Administrative Ministries and follow up with the State Governments